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General Assembly

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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Organization of work

Note by the Chairman

1. Subsidiary bodies

1. During its previous sessions, the Special Committee conducted its work by considering the items directly at its plenary meetings. Since 1997, the meetings of the Bureau have been open to all the members of the Special Committee. The Special Committee has increasingly relied upon informal consultations, thus striving to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum.

2. The Chairman recommends to the Special Committee that it continue to use informal meetings to the maximum extent possible. In the meantime, the Chairman may wish to discuss urgent as well as specific issues with the Bureau.

2. Allocation of items and procedure for consideration

3. Annexed to the present note is a list of pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during the year. It includes decisions adopted by the Special Committee, together with an indication of the procedure that the Committee may wish to adopt for each item. In this regard, the Chairman would like to draw the attention of the Special Committee, in particular, to paragraph 8 (d) of General Assembly resolution 55/147 of 8 December 2000, in which the Special Committee was requested to finalize before the end of 2001 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories.

4. The Special Committee should take into account the resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session that are relevant to the work of the Committee, as listed in the note by the Secretary-General (A/AC.109/2001/L.1). It is also understood that the Special Committee should continue to be guided by the relevant provisions of the resolution adopted by the Assembly on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration (resolution 45/33), as well as the plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the basis of proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General on the Decade.[1] The plan, updated where necessary, would continue to serve as the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism for the period 2001-2010, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000.

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3. Order of priority for consideration of items

5. The Chairman will hold consultations with regard to the order of priority to be given for consideration of items in plenary meetings.

6. It is also his intention to hold consultations on specific activities envisaged under the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

7. In the meantime, subject to the availability of the working papers prepared by the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Special Committee conduct its substantive work in accordance with the schedule of meetings approved by the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.[2]

4. Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

8. In accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 29 November 1979 and in the light of past experience and established practice, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the procedure adopted at its 1982 session[3] authorizing its Rapporteur to reformulate its decisions into draft decisions in General Assembly form and to submit them to the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. The Special Committee may also wish to recommend that its Rapporteur continue to follow the format of its report to the General Assembly adopted at the 2000 session of the Special Committee.

5. Utilization of conference-servicing resources

9. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly decided to waive rules 67 and 108 of its rules of procedure in order to permit meetings to be declared open and debates to proceed without the presence of the quorum required under those rules. The Assembly also decided that morning meetings should begin at 10.

10. As those measures have further enhanced the effective utilization of conference-servicing resources, it is suggested that the Special Committee continue to follow the same procedure. It should be understood that, in accordance with the rules cited, the presence of a majority of the members would continue to be required for any decisions to be taken.

Notes

[1] A/46/634/Rev.1.

[2] A/55/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 50.

[3] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/37/23/Rev.1), chap. I, paras. 60-69.

Annex

Pending matters for consideration by the Special Committee during 2001

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories (General Assembly resolution 2911 (XXVII), decision 37/421 and resolution 54/91)	As appropriate
Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (General Assembly resolution 46/181 and report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1, annex; resolution 55/146))	"
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations and related questions (General Assembly resolution 55/137)	As a separate item
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 55/138)	"
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (General Assembly decision 55/426)	"
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 55/139)	"
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories (General Assembly resolution 55/140)	"
Western Sahara (General Assembly resolution 55/141)	"
New Caledonia (General Assembly resolution 55/142)	"
East Timor	"
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (General Assembly decision 55/411)	"
Gibraltar (General Assembly decision 55/427)	"
Tokelau (General Assembly resolution 55/143)	"
American Samoa (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Anguilla (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Bermuda (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"

Question	*Procedure for consideration*
British Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Cayman Islands (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Guam (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Montserrat (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Pitcairn (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
St. Helena (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Turks and Caicos Islands (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
United States Virgin Islands (General Assembly resolution 55/144 A and B)	"
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories (General Assembly resolution 55/147, paras. 8 (c) and 14)	As a separate item
Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 55/147, para. 8 (b))	To be taken into consideration in the examination of specific Territories
Matters relating to the small Territories (General Assembly resolution 55/147, para. 8 (c))	"
Dissemination of information on decolonization (General Assembly resolution 55/145)	As appropriate
Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico (A/55/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 39)	"
Pattern of conferences (General Assembly resolution 55/222)	"
Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters (A/AC.109/2000/L.15, paras. 2 and 3)	"
Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable (A/AC.109/2000/L.15, para. 10)	"
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (article 15 of the Convention)	"

Tentative programme of work and timetable of the Special Committee

Wednesday, 21 February (1 meeting)	Organization of work
March-April (3 meetings)	Organization of the forthcoming Caribbean Regional Seminar
Friday, 25 May (1 meeting)	Observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
Monday-Wednesday, 18-20 June (3 meetings)	Question of Gibraltar
	Dissemination of information on decolonization
	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations
	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories
Thursday and Friday, 21 and 22 June (3 meetings)	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations
	Report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar
	Question of Western Sahara
Thursday and Friday, 28 and 29 June (4 meetings)	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
	Question of New Caledonia
	Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands
Monday and Tuesday, 2 and 3 July (4 meetings)	Special Committee decision of 12 July 2000 concerning Puerto Rico: hearing of petitioners
Thursday, 5 July (2 meetings)	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories
	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration
	Report of the Special Committee: adoption of recommendations